

OBSERVING PHYSICIANS IN A CLINICAL SETTING

BACKGROUND:

By observing a practising physician in a clinical setting, internationally trained medical graduates (IMGs) have an opportunity to become familiar with the context in which medicine is practiced in Manitoba, knowledge which may assist in their pursuit of a medical career. Observation is an informal arrangement made between a physician and an IMG. It is not a training appointment nor an assessment and will not be considered to be a credential or an assessment on the IMG's application for registration. The College supports observation that is conducted in accordance with the following requirements.

SCOPE:

This statement applies to physicians who allow IMGs to observe patient care in clinical settings.

REQUIREMENTS:

Parameters of Practice

The College expects that when IMGs observe physicians, they will only observe clinical practice. Observation is not intended to provide IMGs with an opportunity to contribute to the delivery of care, or to perform any service for which the physician will, or could be remunerated.

Consent

Physicians must obtain express consent from each of their patients before permitting a third party to observe doctor-patient encounters, or to have access to patient records. Each patient is entitled to withhold or withdraw consent. A patient's decision to provide, withhold, or withdraw consent must not alter the patient's access to health care in any manner. Consent must be documented on the patient's medical record.

Confidentiality Agreement

Maintaining confidentiality of patient information is an essential component in a positive relationship between physician and patient. In order to ensure that observation does not alter the physician-patient relationship, physicians must not enter an observation arrangement until the IMG has signed a confidentiality agreement and agreed to comply with all provincial legislation, including *The Personal Health Information Act*.

**A statement is a formal position of the College with
which members shall comply**